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The Beginner's Greek Composition. Based mainly upon "Xenophon's Anabasis," Book I. By WILLIAM C. COLLAR, and M. GRANT DANIELL. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1893. pp. viii+201.

This book contains one hundred short exercises in Greek composition. Each exercise is based upon a short passage of "Xenophon's Anabasis," taken in order, until Book I is completed. The exercises are arranged in groups of fours, three consisting of short sentences for oral translation, and the fourth in each series consisting of a connected passage for written translation based upon the same passage and involving the same grammatical principles as the three preceding ones. Each of the oral exercises presents for especial study several principles of syntax, usually four, with references to the grammar. The student is to find illustrations of these principles in the text and apply them in the sentences. Thus the main features of Greek syntax are brought out and some are referred to several times. A few notes and a few Latin equivalents for Greek phrases are given at the end of each lesson.

The avowed goal of the book is to give the "ability to translate connected English into Greek." And the success which has followed this method thus far bids fair to make it the only method. Its great merit consists not simply in teaching to write Greek, but in being the most economical method for teaching to translate Greek. The great problem here solved is,—how to concentrate the attention of the beginner upon a small amount of text until he has mastered its every detail and still prevent him from becoming a mere machine; and again:—how to teach grammar concretely and not simply in the abstract. In a certain way, too, these exercises form a model translation for the scholar giving him idiomatic English for Greek phrases, and not the least advantage is the marked improvement in the English of the translation presented by the scholar.

The especial excellence of the book before us, as an application of this method, is the purity of its English, and this is no mean merit, especially when we observe the marked lack of it in similar books, and consider the unconscious but powerful influence which it exerts upon the translation of the student. Further, the authors have not forgotten that Greek is a language of particles and connectives, and without thrusting these awkwardly forward or omitting them entirely, as is often done, they have formed such sentences and so connected them that the student must inevitably feel the force and need of particles and connectives.

The illustrations scattered through the book explanatory of Greek words are especially appropriate to the method of the book, and the excellent work of the publisher is to be commended. The book in every way shows those unmistakable marks which

characterize the work of practical teachers. One has only to regret that the exercises are limited to Book I and not continued through at least three Books.

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Inorganic Chemistry for Beginners. By SIR HENRY ROSCOE, F. R. S., D. C. L., LL. D., M. P., assisted by JOSEPH LUNT, B. Sc. (Vict.) F. C. S. Macmillan & Co., 1893.

The name of Sir Henry Roscoe is a sufficient guarantee, that any work to which it is attached is worthy of careful consideration by all teachers of science.

In a great majority of text-books of chemistry for beginners, the author has merely abridged a larger work, and in order to make it easy or popular, has omitted much that every one who wishes to teach chemistry in the truly scientific way, wishes to preserve. Others in their desire to simplify have attempted to put all their explanations in the text, thus often confusing the student, or encouraging him to commit to memory pages of words.

The little book with the above title is not an abridgement of Roscoe's "Lessons in Elementary Chemistry," but an entirely new work. It is not an exhaustive treatise, but in the language of the preface, is a "work for those beginning the study of the science, in which the elementary principles of chemistry are more fully treated than is the case in the 'Lessons,' whilst the description of the elements and their compounds is restricted to a few well chosen typical examples."

Under Part I the work covers the more important elementary principles of theoretical chemistry (pp. 1-66). Under Part II the principal non-metallic elements and their compounds are discussed (pp. 67-240). There is a short appendix, in which the metrical and common measures are given in comparison.

It is to be regretted that the authors have used the older and commercial names of compounds so generally, instead of the more scientific modern nomenclature.

The work seems admirably adapted to the uses of secondary schools and might be used advantageously in colleges, by those students who do not care to take an extended course in science. It is well written, the statements being clearly and concisely made, and the principles involved well explained by the experiments which compose the greater portion of the text. The book is well illustrated and forms a real addition to the great number of chemical text-books.

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